

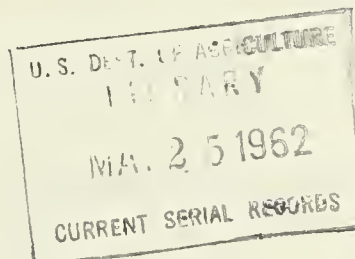
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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



LIVESTOCK AND MEATS  
FLM 8-62  
May 1962

## WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS UP

### 20 MILLION HEAD IN 1962

The world's cattle and buffalo population in 1962 is estimated at 1,035 million head, 20 million more than a year earlier and 125 million more than the 1951-55 average. The increase in world numbers in the past 9 years amounts to slightly more than the total for the United States and Canada.

The substantial increase in cattle numbers has made it possible to increase beef and veal production in the 41 major meat producing countries by 19 per cent compared with the 1951-55 average.

The upward trend in world cattle numbers is a direct response to generally high beef prices and an increasing demand as population and standards of living rise throughout the world. Meat packing facilities are being developed in Africa, the northern part of South America, and Central America. New modern packing plants are being built in the U.S.S.R. and other eastern European countries. The construction of these facilities provide strong stimulus for increased output of beef and increased beef cattle numbers. However, in many African countries cattle are still a symbol of wealth and not slaughtered for food, while in other nations cattle are kept only for milk or work.

During 1961 cattle numbers increased 3 percent in North America, Eastern Europe and Oceania, 2 percent in South America and Western Europe, and about 1 percent in Asia. Numbers in the U.S.S.R. January 1, 1962 were about 8 percent higher than at the beginning of the previous year. Numbers in Africa showed less than a 1 percent increase during 1961.

This Circular contains more detailed information than the summary of similar title published in the monthly supplement issue of Foreign Crops and Markets of April 26, 1962.

CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Estimated world total by continent or area, average 1951-55, annual 1959-62

Continent						Change	
	Average					1962	1962
	1951-55	1959	1960	1961 1/	1962 1/	1951-55	1961
	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Mil. head	Percent	Percent
North America.....	129.8	138.1	142.4	143.5	148.1	+14	+3
South America.....	140.1	157.4	162.1	166.3	168.8	+20	+2
Europe:							
Western.....	73.3	78.1	80.9	83.4	85.2	+16	+2
Eastern.....	29.7	30.2	31.1	32.4	33.4	+12	+3
Total Europe.....	102.9	108.3	112.0	115.8	118.6	+15	+2
U.S.S.R. ....	57.0	70.8	74.2	75.8	82.1	+44	+8
Africa.....	103.3	112.4	117.8	118.2	118.6	+14	---
Asia.....	355.5	373.7	375.7	371.8	374.8	+5	+1
Oceania.....	21.1	22.5	22.8	23.6	24.3	+15	+3
Total World.....	910.2	983.2	1,007.0	1,015.0	1,035.3	+14	+2

1/ Preliminary.

Note: Individual data will not always add to totals because of rounding.

World cattle and buffalo numbers were 14 percent above the 1951-55 average on January 1, 1962. There were increases in all major areas ranging from 44 percent in the U.S.S.R. to 5 percent in Asia. Numbers in South American countries increased 20 percent; Western Europe, 16 percent; Oceania, 15 percent; North America and Africa, 14 percent; and Western Europe, 12 percent.

Ten countries each have more than 20 million head of cattle and together account for more than 63 percent of the world's cattle numbers. Five countries--India, the United States, the U.S.S.R., Brazil and China--each have 60 million, or more. Argentina is the sixth largest with 44 million. Pakistan, Mexico, Ethiopia (including Eritrea), and France have from 30 million to 20 million.

North America. The 3 percent increase in North America was due primarily to the continuing build-up in beef cattle herds. Central American countries have embarked on programs to improve and increase their livestock industries. The favorable U.S. price for boneless beef has encouraged slaughter for export. The United States has been importing increasing amounts of boneless beef from Guatemala, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Honduras. Mexican cattle numbers rose considerably during 1961 as drought conditions ended.

The United States imported more than 1 million head of cattle during 1961, almost all from Mexico and Canada. Strong U.S. demand for feeder cattle at above normal prices, combined with poor pasture conditions in Mexico during the first part of 1961, and drought in Canada in the summer of 1961 were reflected in near record U.S. cattle imports.

South America. Cattle numbers continued to rise in South America. Numbers in Argentina, the most important exporter of beef and veal, did not change during 1961. Major increases were in Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador. Much of the increase in Brazil is in the vast previously undeveloped areas where new farms are being established.

Numbers in Uruguay increased slightly during 1961 due mostly to improved pasture conditions. Cattle numbers continued to increase in Peru, but were slightly lower in Chile after having shown a small but steady gain during the previous 3 years.

Western Europe. In the United Kingdom and Ireland livestock numbers declined during 1961 due to increased slaughter. However, cow numbers are higher than in the previous year; the 1961 calf crop is expected to be large and numbers should increase this year. Numbers in other Western European countries continued to rise in 1961 and reached record highs in many countries.

Strong demand for beef and higher cattle prices have stimulated beef cattle production in Western Europe. Production has been encouraged by price support programs in some countries, including the United Kingdom, France, Italy, and Switzerland. More extensive husbandry practices and improvement of pasture and crop land have been major factors in the increase in cattle numbers.

Eastern Europe. Cattle numbers continued to rise in nearly all major East European countries during 1961. Government policies have tended to increase meat production in an effort to raise per capita meat consumption to levels more nearly comparable to those in Western Europe. In most areas livestock production is determined by government policy. Price policies and allocation of feed supplies are major factors affecting livestock numbers.

Cattle in the Soviet Union increased about 8 percent from 75.8 million at the first of 1961 to a new record of 82.1 million at the beginning of 1962, one of the largest increases in recent years. The U.S.S.R. still lags behind the United States in both cattle numbers and beef production.

Africa. Numbers in Africa showed only a slight increase during 1961. Severe droughts and diseases in some of the major producing countries have had a serious effect on the upward trend of the previous 10 years. However, numbers in Egypt, and the new countries formed out of the old French colonies--French West Africa and French Equatorial Africa--have more than

CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1959-62

Country	Average 1951-55	1959	1960	1961 1/	1962 1/	Month of estimate
North America:	Thousands:	Thousands:	Thousands:	Thousands:	Thousands:	
Canada (excluding Newfound- land).....	8,673	10,112	10,489	10,897	11,111	Dec. 1 2/
Mexico.....	17,200	20,000	21,000	21,100	22,500	Spring
United States (Continental)...	91,333	93,322	96,236	97,319	99,500	Jan. 1
Hawaii.....	160	175	182	182	183	Dec. 31 2/
Puerto Rico.....	382	412	452	---	---	Jan. 1
Costa Rica.....	705	1,002	1,057	1,097	1,137	Spring
El Salvador.....	869	779	800	825	---	Oct. 2/
Guatemala.....	1,133	1,142	1,062	1,134	---	April
Honduras.....	1,153	---	---	---	---	Aug.
Nicaragua.....	1,213	1,425	1,496	---	---	
Panama.....	573	661	666	---	---	Aug.
Cuba.....	4,408	5,840	5,760	5,025	5,772	Dec. 2/
Dominican Republic.....	885	943	946	950	---	July
Total North America.....	129,810	138,080	142,420	143,500	148,130	
South America:						
Argentina.....	42,338	41,203	43,398	44,000	44,000	June 30
Bolivia.....	2,260	---	---	---	---	Jan. 4/
Brazil.....	56,071	71,420	72,829	73,962	75,293	Dec. 31 2/
Chile.....	2,630	2,920	2,930	2,945	2,940	Jan. 1
Colombia.....	12,944	14,840	15,100	15,400	15,600	Oct. 1 2/
Ecuador.....	1,377	1,403	1,405	1,490	1,570	
Paraguay.....	4,099	3,666	3,689	---	---	
Peru.....	3,331	3,372	3,591	3,820	4,000	Dec. 31 2/
Uruguay.....	7,797	7,502	7,505	8,680	8,835	May
Venezuela.....	7,512	8,600	9,200	9,800	10,400	
Total South America.....	140,580	157,410	162,130	166,270	168,810	
Europe:						
Austria.....	2,303	2,279	2,308	2,387	2,455	Dec. 3 2/
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	2,284	2,630	2,690	2,680	---	Jan.
Denmark 5/.....	6/2,989	3,224	3,313	3,358	3,461	Jan.
Finland.....	1,852	1,949	1,922	2,057	---	June 15
France.....	16,506	18,408	18,735	19,436	20,008	Oct. 2/
Germany, West 7/.....	11,546	12,127	12,480	12,867	13,284	Dec. 3 2/
Greece 8/.....	942	1,103	1,123	1,135	1,150	Dec. 31 2/
Ireland.....	3,925	4,053	4,273	4,241	4,100	Jan. 1
Italy 8/.....	8,711	9,062	9,399	10,069	10,500	Jan.
Netherlands.....	2,733	3,015	3,164	3,228	3,388	Dec. 2/
Norway.....	1,127	1,060	1,076	1,114	1,138	Dec. 2/
Portugal.....	6/1,050	1,132	1,108	1,115	---	Jan.
Spain.....	2,888	2,690	3,640	3,768	---	May 31
Sweden.....	9/2,557	9/2,580	2,365	2,370	2,444	Oct. 2/
Switzerland.....	1,620	1,687	1,746	1,759	1,770	April
United Kingdom.....	10,132	11,005	11,479	11,702	11,631	Dec. 1 2/
Total West Europe 3/.....	73,255	78,100	80,920	83,380	85,170	
Albania 8/.....	411	426	---	---	---	
Bulgaria 8/.....	1,896	1,572	1,458	1,536	---	Jan.
Czechoslovakia.....	4,249	4,183	4,303	4,387	4,518	Jan. 1
Germany, East.....	3,790	4,145	4,465	4,679	4,700	Dec. 3 2/
Hungary.....	2,108	2,004	1,971	1,957	2,000	March
Poland.....	7,488	8,353	8,695	9,160	9,620	June 30
Rumania 8/.....	4,647	4,394	4,450	4,530	4,707	Jan.
Yugoslavia 8/.....	5,061	5,088	5,343	5,767	5,923	Jan. 15
Total East Europe.....	29,650	30,170	31,110	32,440	33,440	
Total Europe.....	102,905	108,270	112,030	115,830	118,610	
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	57,005	70,840	74,200	75,800	82,100	

(Continued)

## CATTLE AND BUFFALO: Number in specified countries, average 1951-55, annual 1959-62 (continued)

Country	Average 1951-55	1959	1960	1961 <u>1/</u>	1962 <u>1/</u>	Month of estimate
<b>Africa:</b>	<b>Thousands</b>	<b>Thousands</b>	<b>Thousands</b>	<b>Thousands</b>	<b>Thousands</b>	
Algeria.....	10/ 835	660	664	650	---	June
Ethiopia-Eritrea.....	20,830	21,800	22,250	---	---	
Sudan, Republic of the.....	4,457	6,907	7,100	---	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Tunisia, Republic of.....	448	563	604	---	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
U.A.R., Egypt <u>8/</u> .....	2,685	2,819	2,855	3,150	3,189	Jan.
Angola.....	1,237	1,217	1,250	---	---	
Cameroun, Federal Rep. of.....	1,250	1,295	1,300	---	---	Dec. 31 <u>2/</u>
Congo, Republic of the <u>11/</u> .....	762	1,006	1,035	---	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Guinea.....	---	1,197	1,257	1,319	1,385	
Ivory Coast.....	---	279	289	300	310	
Kenya.....	6,806	7,417	---	---	---	Dec. 31 <u>2/</u>
Malagasy Republic.....	5,960	6,352	---	---	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Mali, Republic of.....	---	3,314	3,313	3,864	4,173	
Mauritania.....	---	---	1,000	1,100	1,200	
Mozambique.....	782	953	---	---	---	
Nigeria.....	9,734	6,460	9,000	9,000	---	
Rhodesia and Nyasaland, Federation of.....	4,230	5,007	5,131	5,076	---	Dec. 31 <u>2/</u>
Ruanda-Urundi.....	948	1,008	1,032	---	---	Dec. 31 <u>2/</u>
Senegal.....	---	---	1,591	1,671	1,755	
South Africa, Republic of.....	11,700	11,300	---	---	---	Aug. 31
Swaziland.....	421	504	521	---	---	Sept.
Tanganyika.....	6,393	7,415	7,720	---	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Uganda <u>12/</u> .....	2,738	3,590	3,600	---	---	
Total Africa <u>3/</u> .....	103,320	112,430	117,790	118,240	118,570	
<b>Asia:</b>						
Iran <u>8/</u> .....	4,654	5,455	5,600	4,700	4,800	Mar. 21
Iraq <u>8/ 12/</u> .....	2,177	---	---	---	---	Mar. 21
Syria <u>8/</u> .....	459	498	449	---	---	Dec. 31 <u>2/</u>
Turkey (Europe and Asia) <u>8/</u> .....	11,577	13,646	13,479	13,575	13,982	Nov. <u>2/</u>
China, Mainland <u>8/ 13/</u> .....	59,700	64,952	65,400	---	---	Dec. 1
Burma <u>8/</u> .....	5,935	6,337	---	---	---	March
Cambodia <u>8/</u> .....	1,291	1,059	1,546	1,600	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Ceylon <u>8/</u> .....	1,918	2,267	---	---	---	
China, Taiwan <u>8/</u> .....	384	419	420	421	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
India <u>8/ 14/</u> .....	200,392	206,500	---	---	---	May
Indonesia <u>8/</u> .....	7,576	---	---	---	---	
Japan.....	2,782	3,118	3,163	3,198	3,298	Feb. 1
Korea, South.....	616	1,008	1,020	1,010	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Laos <u>8/</u> .....	310	---	---	---	---	Jan. 1
Malaya <u>8/</u> .....	510	568	578	---	---	
Pakistan <u>8/</u> .....	29,636	29,471	29,424	30,200	---	
Philippines <u>8/</u> .....	15/3,467	4,706	4,807	4,991	5,300	March
Thailand <u>8/</u> .....	11,025	11,537	11,930	12,000	---	March 31
Vietnam <u>8/</u> .....	826	1,396	1,392	1,454	---	Dec. <u>2/</u>
Total Asia <u>3/</u> .....	355,470	373,680	375,690	371,760	374,790	
<b>Oceania:</b>						
Australia.....	15,361	16,257	16,503	17,303	17,950	March
New Zealand.....	5,468	5,973	5,992	6,040	6,060	Jan.
Total Oceania <u>3/</u> .....	21,070	22,495	22,760	23,610	24,270	
TOTAL WORLD <u>3/</u> .....	910,155	983,205	1,007,020	1,015,000	1,035,300	

1/ Preliminary. 2/ October-December numbers are included under following year for comparison and totals. 3/ Includes allowance for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 4/ Less than a 5-year average. 5/ Includes Faroe Islands. 6/ December census. 7/ Includes Saarland. 8/ Includes buffaloes. 9/ June census. 10/ November census. 11/ Formerly the Belgian Congo. 12/ On native farms. 13/ Includes 22 provinces, Manchuria, Sinkiang, and Tibet. Excludes Outer Mongolia. 14/ Census May 1951 through August 1952. 15/ January census.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States agricultural attaches and other representatives abroad, results of office research and related information.  
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offset the losses in other African countries. Cattle production has been retarded in many countries because of the lack of slaughter facilities and markets for meat. New packing and freezing plants are being built and markets developed in many countries. This should result in a further increase in cattle numbers.

Asia. Cattle numbers in Asia increased by about 3 million head during 1961. Sizeable increases in India, Iran, Turkey, and the Philippines accounted for the rise. Numbers in India are estimated to be about 210 million head, more than double those in the United States and over one-fifth of the world's total. There was no apparent change in cattle numbers in China during 1961.

Oceania. Numbers in both Australia and New Zealand increased during 1961, and are expected to show further gains this year. High export prices for beef have encouraged heavy slaughter in both countries and have slowed down the possible rate of increase in cattle numbers. Cattle herds in Australia have been culled so that present numbers have fewer steers and old bulls and a higher percentage of younger breeding cows, thereby, assuring a steady supply of beef and the possibility of increasing numbers on farms for the next few years.



Growth Through Agricultural Progress



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